

[Eliza M. Brandes]

[??] [700?] [?]

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Eilert Mohlman ADDRESS Columbus, Nebr.

DATE November 7, 1938. SUBJECT American Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Eliza M. Brandes, Columbus, Nebr.
2. Date and time of interview Nov. 7-38 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
3. Place of interview Home
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Living room Comfortably furnished, restful. House earlier type, over 50 years old. Surroundings urban. [???

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Eilert Molhman ADDRESS Columbus, Nebr.

DATE November 7, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Eliza M. Brandes, Columbus, Nebr.

1. Ancestry German

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2. Place and date of birth Sage, Germany, Jan. 12, 1858
3. Family Widow - 8 children
4. Place lived in, with dates Mayville, Wis. 1866-1867. Colfax and Platte Co. 1867 to 1903. Columbus, Nebr., 1903 to date.
5. Education with dates Country log school 1869-1872.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Domestic - Housewife
7. Special skills and interests Cooking - - Seamstress
8. Community and religious activities German Lutheran church - Pioneer Community welfare work
9. Description of informant Medium build, very active for her age
10. Other points gained in interview Possesses / a very keen memory of by-gone days. Has always worked hard and still enjoys in assisting with daily house work.

FORM C Text of interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Eilert Mohlman ADDRESS Columbus, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 7, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Eliza M. Brandes, Columbus, nebr.

I was born in Sage, Germany, about four miles from Oldenburg, and when I was eight years old, my father and mother decided to sell their farm in Germany and I came with them and my two sisters to America.

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We sailed on the ship "Atlantic" from Bremem Hafen in the early fall of 1886. We were three weeks on the water and there were 700 people on the ship, and I remember I always used to enjoy to go on the deck and watch the big fish eat the scraps of food that were thrown overboard, and sometimes the water was pretty rough. On the way over the ship stopped some place in England to take coal. We landed in New York City and stayed there one night and my father took me around a little to see the big buildings. The next day we got on the train and went to Mayville, Wisconsin. When we got there it was awful cold and there was lots of snow. While we were there my father used to go out with a horse and buggy to see if he could find a farm that he could buy, but those places that he liked had so many maple and walnut trees on it that it took so much work and time to clear it for farming. So many people there were making their own maple sugar and syrup. We stayed there about six months and came to Omaha, Nebraska, the next spring. When we got there, there was so much snow and mud, and there were floods and I say some big houses floating down the river and they said the people in it were drowned.

We then came to Columbus, Nebraska and we stayed at "Hoffman's Place" a few days and then "Little" Henry Rickert, they called him "little" Rickert, because he was such a small man, came to town in a lumber wagon and took us out to his log house in the country about fifteen miles northeast of Columbus. They only had one big room in their log cabin but we stayed with them for three months when my father bought a farm and also took a homestead. Our house was the first frame house built in that part of the country, the others were all sod houses, and the people would come over to our place and stay until they had their houses finished. My father and mother had a log house on their homestead and they had to go and live on it for a while, and I had to stay on the home place and do all the chores and housework and I did not have much time to go to school regularly.

Spillman was my first teacher that learned us english; we used to go to the preachers house to a room that he had upstairs where we learned german, and I was confirmed when I was fourteen years old.

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When I was out of school I worked for a man named Dr. Rippe; he lived near Richland, Nebraska. He was a missionary and also a doctor in the army. They had a lot of turkeys when I came there. His wife's mother came from New York while I was there and she got sich sick and died there and they buried her in the garden at first, and later took her to New York.

My father had a pair of heavy work oxen and they did all the plowing and other hard work, and later he bought a team of horses for \$300. The corn we planted with a small hand planter; we also had a reaper but we had to bind all the grain by hand.

I remember my father had a hard time to find milk cows; he would drive all over the country and he finally got four cows. I remember we had one staked out and she broke loose and started to run down a hill and broke her neck.

The indians used to come to our house so many times, they came mostly from the Omaha tribe; they would always ask for some things to eat; at one time a large band of them camped close to our place for a whole week; they were camped close to the creek so they would have plenty of water and could fish, but they didn' bother us so very much.

Form D Supplementary

Mrs. Brandes has lived in this comunnity practically all her life. She has always worked hard and endured many hardships in her life, and is still endeared to her early teachings, that in order to live and honest and uprighteous life, one must work for a living.

Her school days were limited, but in later years learned many of lifes' lessons that only pioneers could experience. Although she had two hip fractures during the last few years, she is now in fair health and spends many enjoyable hours in reviewing the bible and reading her favorite books of prayer.